(b) if so, the details thereof as on date and reasons causing delay therein; and

(c) by when these pending irrigation projects are proposed to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) In order to expedite clearance of the projects under appraisal with the central appraising agencies, entire appraisal set up in the Central Water Commission is geared up. The meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose Projects are held quite frequently and comparatively larger number of projects are taken up for consideration. It is for the state government of Maharashtra to submit satisfactory responses to the observations of the central appraising agencies and required statutory clearances for the projects under appraisal so that the projects could be placed before the said Advisory Committee for approval.

There are 34 projects of Maharashtra under various stages of appraisal and 6 projects have been approved by the Advisory Committee subject to several observations. The state government of Maharashtra has to submit satisfactory responses to the observations of the central appraising agencies with regard to the pending projects proposals.

Abandoned projects

3227. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has abandoned some projects;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) the exact reasons for such decision and the amount lost in each project; and

(d) the number of such projects in the agency areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) Irrigation is a state subject and planning, execution, funding and priority of execution of irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Governments. No information regarding abandoning of any major/medium project ongoing under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme has been received from the state governments in recent times. However, sometimes project execution gets delayed for unusually long time due to compelling reasons such as Litigation, geological surprises, environmental & forest clearances, resettlement and rehabilitation problems and agitation against the project and such issues are required to be resolved by the state governments. As informed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, no project has been abandoned in that state.

Projects under AIBP in West Bengal

3228. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken in the State of West Bengal in the last five years under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP);

(b) whether it is a fact that the projects sanctioned under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme are monitored by Regional Offices of the Central Water Commission;

(c) if so, whether the Regional Offices of the CWC has found any irregularities in the above projects taken up under AIBP;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action that has been contemplated on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (e) No new major/medium project was included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the last five years. However, during 2007-08, 32 new Surface Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes of the state were included in the AIBP. Of these, 23 schemes have been reported as completed by the state government. The state government has requested for deletion of remaining 9 MI schemes from ABIP. Further, some discrepancies were observed in the information provided by the state government in the irrigation potential created under AIBP for 23 completed schemes. The issue has been taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources with the state government and the same has been reconciled.

Water of underground sources

3229. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of water being used in India from underground sources is estimated to be 45 per cent more than natural system and the current stock of underground water disappearing at the rate of one feet per year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether water insecurity has come because of poor hydrological management like water storage, distribution usage and conservation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to utilize underground sources more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) In the article titled 'Satellite-based estimates of groundwater depletion in India' published in August, 2009 issue of scientific journal 'Nature' it has been indicated that groundwater is being depleted at a mean rate of 4.0 ± 1.0 cm yr^{-1} equivalent height of water (17.7 ± 4.5 km^3 yr^{-1}) over the Indian states of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana (including Delhi).

As per the information provided by the States, 45% of the irrigation potential created is through ground water resources and about 47% of the irrigation potential utilized is through ground water. About 85% of the rural drinking water requirement has been assessed to be met from ground water resources.